

"The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving towards all he has made." Ps. 145:13

The red and the black. On the 7th of this month we received an email with the title "Full year Finance report - 2011/12 – Brice". I had a feeling not unlike the one that used to greet the arrival of the school report. On our arrival back in the UK, last September, we were told that we needed to raise our support by £4,000, for the next three periods, if we are to make up the current shortfall. You can imagine we were over joyed to see that income over the last 12 months was nearly £3,000 up on the previous year. Yes, there was still a substantial shortfall but we are so grateful to God that, even in times of financial austerity, you have been moved to give generously and, no doubt, sacrificially. Pray for a further move towards the black.



Happy second birthday! Ian Xavier and Congratulations! to Neill and Deysi and Javier and Melody as they wait for new arrivals in October and September respectively.



Marie's mum has been unwell recently. She lives on her own in a flat near the centre of Asuncion so understandably with her suffering from dizziness Marie has been worried that she might fall either in the flat or out shopping. This together with the difficulty Marie has had making arrangements with Jasmin has led her to suspend her plans to make monthly trips to the Chaco for the moment.



Paraguayans love to add different medicinal roots and herbs to their cold tea drink (tereré). *Moringa* (above) promises to be the next 'miracle' plant, its potential includes being a source of bio-diesel and a food supplement. It may, or, may not fulfil these expectations but it has really caught on in the medicinal plant market in Paraguay. Many Indians in El Estribo are already taking advantage of this interest. With the improved rains this year we are encouraging some of

the poorer members of the San Mateo congregation to plant it too. So far there are three women (Fransisca, Raquel and María Luisa) who will get ten small plants each to plant out in their plots. In this way we hope to supplement their income and be able to take advantage of this new source of income to teach some principles of Christian giving. M.Luisa (Left, with two of her children and current partner Elias) is one of the new contacts that has been coming regularly to San Mateo thanks to the visiting teams work.



Gumersindo, ordination candidate with his father-in-law pastor Mario Recalde from La Patria.

Praise the Lord that our first Conference of the year in Río Verde, earlier this month, was very encouraging. It was not, however, without obstacles. At the last minute Agustín had to find a replacement cook, then due a misunderstanding, an extra cook appeared uninvited. Threats of road closure due to a demonstration meant we had to collect some of the participants a day early, but the lack of fire wood needed for cooking threatened to sour relationships. Overloaded electricity supply meant we held our first meeting illuminated by just torches, mobile phones and the occasional flash of an under-powered fluorescent tube. Misunderstood radio messages threatened to cut the number participants and heavy rain meant that Bishop Andrés had to cancel his plans to participate!

One of the outcomes of our time together was the proposal that Makxawáya be the location of our next conference for the benefit of some ten to fifteen church leaders who live in the area and don't normally get a chance to participate. The suggested date is 16 to 19 of April with another meeting in Río Verde in May or June to evaluate the experience and plan for the future.

Praise the Lord that the mechanics seem to have solved one of the problems that plagued our truck for over a year. They still warn us, however, that we should really be thinking of selling it sooner rather than later!

With all our love and Easter Greetings through our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ

Ed and Marie

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